The
Whim Whams & Opinions
of
M. E. Morrell,

Written by himself, for his own amusement

On a voyage

To the South Sea

On board the Ship Hero, of Nantucket 1822. 1823 & 4

Or Cara the [illegible]

– – – – – – – – Nothing extenuate,
Or set down aught in malice.

Shakspear.

I was born, no matter where; my parents where, no matter who. my disposition to rove, having carried me to Boston, ~~when spending some many days I started for home, but arrived not for sea, and receiving a further supply from my parents, as I wished,~~ resolved to take once more to the Salt Pond, without informing my parents of my destination — There being no Ships at this place that where going long voyages, I proceeded to Nantucket where I was confident they could be obtained —

This is an Island almost adjoining Cape Cod & partakes a little of its nature — being all Sand. the latest history of its origin & the most probable is, that Man=shoc the great Spirit, came on a visit to the Indians at Gay Head; after eating a hearty Meal, they collected all the tobacco that was on the Island to fill his pipe — after he had finished Smoking he put one foot over on Naushon & in this position emptied the Ashes of his pipe which formed this Island — With few exceptions the Inhabitants are Avaricous, ignorant & superstitious — As they are all employed in the Whale Fishery, it does not entice much Commerce nor intercourse with other parts — neither does the place — which is a dreary waste — have any charms for the invalid or Stranger. In a National point of view, its benefits are many — — Their enterprize & industry has carried our flag to Nations & Latitudes all over the Globe — their Oil supplys our City with light, their shipping employs a great many green hands, who seldom go the second time; of course supplys our shipping in other ports with hardy & able Seamen — In a few words it may be called the Nursery of American Seamen —

At this place without without counsel to aid or advise, I entered in Capacity of Mariner on board the South Sea Whaleman, the Ship Hero of Nantucket — —

On the 8th Nov 1811. We Sailed in ballast to Old Town for our provision, boats &c. this employ, detained us untill the

5th of Jany 1822; when we weighed anchor & proceeded to Sarpaulin Cove, the wind being unfavorable, detained us untill the 4th, when we finally took our departure from the land of Liberty. - - - - - - - Most all our hands being unaccustomed to the motion of a Ship, those countenances that where before expressive of pleasure & health, in a moment became dejected, pale & terrific - such a scene is dificult to describe - litterally it was a floating hospital - prostrate some would lay on the deck, regardless of the spray, as it was of them while others laying on their chests, sighing to be at home, where some friendly hand would administer to their wants - instead of which his Shipmates, who where more accustomed to the boisterous element would stand & laugh at their Calamity. - - Our passage from the Land through Gulph of Mexico was cold & boisterous - after arriving in the Trade winds, all hands once more, mustered to duty & in a few days their countenances, resumed their former vivacity & their stomachs, more, than their former appetites. - - - - -

On board of these Ships it is customary to have a Man at each mast head, for the purpose of looking out for Whales; this instead of being a disagreeable birth, is on the Contrary, the most agreeable - for without neglecting your duty, you can recall to mind your past conduct, - plan your future pursuits, & consider your latter end, without any annoyance, save the chirping of the Sea birds over your head. - -

Here; active fancy, travels, beyond sense,
And pictures, things unseen. - - -

The boats employed in this service, are construcled of light materials 18 or 20 feet in length, sharp at both ends, so as to be propeled off or on. the Apparatus attached to them are; A line Coiled A La Mode Flemish, in a tub seated Near the Stern, at which place there is a Loggerhead, around this the line is taken, the end Carried to the bow, & the harpoon fastened to it - with this when sufficently near, the harpooner rises and strikes the Whale. - -

the moment he feels the instrument, he feels with his flukes for the object, but the boat by this time is stiered off — he then takes to sounding (or goes down) sometimes the length of the line, which is from 150 to 170 fathoms. his speed at this time may be judged of by its requireing one hand to wet the line, & to keep it from fireing the loggehead, while the others are employed in holding on — after staying under, from ½ to ½ an hour, he then rises to blow, the boats are then hauled on & the Officer with his lance, kills him, though sometimes with difficulty & considerable danger — our boats where fortunate they not being stove but three or four times. — — —

Nothing occured worthy of Note (breaking out the hold every day excepted) untill our Arrival in Lat. 28 S. when the Man at mast head, sieng out there she blows — the Cry for Whales — here was considerable confusion, as the Most of us where ignorant of the manner of Catching them and not being accustomed to a small open boat, added considerable to retard the persuite — after rowing ½ a Mile we came up with the School & soon laid two of them dead, or as Whalemen say, belly up — they were then towed along side, their hide Cut off, (or blubber) & hoisted in, where there is two pots erected for the purpose of trying — these two Made 70 Bbls Oil — Until this Critical juncture my Spirits & Ambition had been at its height, but the filthiness and fatigue of the Work, both day & Night, made it leave this tenement of Clay, by every Avenue in it. — —

We are now Shapeing a direct course to Cape Horn & as we approach it are makeing every preperation in our power to withstand its boisterous shores — from what I had heard of it anticipated considerable disagreable weather & on the voyage had read Commodore Porters Narrative, which in his description of the Cape, corroborated all I had heard —

After 60 days buffeting the boisterous elements accompanied with hail & snow, we finally succeeded in getting round, such where my fears, that I anticipated, more than was realized — though I admit we suffered considerable. — In my opinion Porter, made a Sucka of of himself, in his description of this place, he was only 15 days off here; with a fine Frigate under him & well manned — while thousands of his Countrymen, in worse times & Ships, seldom make mention of it — though an Author must be allowed, to say something (right or wrong) to make a book — We ran as far South as 61° but found no Weather nor wind to favour us. — I should say his directions concerning the route is correct, for if you keep within sight or near the land, & a favourable Wind should happen, (which lasts but a Short time) you can take the advantage of it, on the Contrary if far to the Southward, it is of little benefit — We here saw a large whale, but it was & always is too rugged to catch them. —

We ran as far as Conception, & commenced Cruiseing, formerly at this Lat. 30° S. Ships could fill in a short time, but it is seldom they are seen, in these days, & when found so wild they are with difficulty caught. — —

As we did not go into any of the Ports on the coast of Chili, can form no idea of the Country — am informed that the Soil is fertile, producing, wheat, rye, corn &c with all kinds of Vegetables & fruit in abundance & very cheap. Valparaiso is the principal Sea Port & City on this coast, from which there is considerable commerce carried on, principally by Americans.

From this we proceeded along the Coast, occasionally Catching whales, untill our Arrival at Payta, a Small Town in 5° S. on the Coast of Peru. Nothing could induce any civilized people to reside here where it not for its having a good harbour, which induces Whale Ships to Stop to repair & recruit. — The Town contains about 200 houses or huts, both Public & Private are constructed of Bamboo & mud one story high. — —

Their household furniture consists of an Oak bench, which extends round the room, & answers the two-fold purpose of chairs and bedstead — in the center of the rooms, a little elevated, stands an iron pot, which when they have provisions, they Cook. — — let their poverty be ever so great, still the houses are filled with half starved domestic Animals, which makes it dangerous for a person to eat any where near them, without their first being secured. — — At this place there is no vestige of Vegetation, nor any Water fit for drink, within 10 Miles. — The Town is situated at the foot of a high bluff, at the top of which I clambered with considerable difficulty & for my pains saw nothing but a dreary Waste. — — Am informed the interior is very fertile from whence they procure their sustenance. — —

At this place we where allowed one days liberty, after being at sea 150 — While we where quietly seated in a private house, partaking of fruit, what was our astonishment when we where Saluted by a ragamuffin Spaniard (carrying something that had the appearance of a Musquet) with the words Largo boardo, (or go on board) We at first hesitated to obey the summons, but none of us understanding the language so that we could not ascertain the cause of the Order & seeing others comeing to assist him, concluded he was obeying orders from higher authority, tamely submitted & marched to the Pier — here we found 50 or 60 Seamen from other Ships, who had been escorted the same honorable manner as ourselves, & here we heard the cause of our being held in durance vile. — — The case was; An Indian belonging to our Crew, being intoxicated had a skirmish with four or five Spaniards, when the Masters of Ships in Port fearful of serious causes ensueing, had an order issued from the Commandant for us to be sent on board. — At the time my blood boild with indignation, to see a parcel of Young Men,

should lose our liberty, when we were peaceably enjoying ourselves & that civily, molesting & injuring no one — & to make the Circumstance more aggravating, was Ordered & guarded by a domineering & lousy Spanish Soldier — had we been Unanimous, our Masters & Spaniards, would have paid dear for their presumption, — Our guard at the Pier amounted to three, with Musquets destitute of locks & bayonets — it was the wish of many, & (it could have been done with ease,) to knock down the guard & finish our liberty. — Under all my chagrin, I could not refrain from laughing, to see a small Yankee lad offer one of the guard a shilling to view his Musquet after he had inspected & found it could not injure out of its reach; he calmly threw it down, and made off. — others who where resolved to have their liberty out, for the Sum of 25 cents bribed the guard & quietly departed, while others peaceably submitted & went on board.

The Air is dry & serene, the vast Mountains (Andes) that run through here are very benefial by the refreshing breezes that come from their snowy Caps. — It is very remarkable that it never rains in this Country which defect is supplied by heavy Night dews & sufficently refreshes the Vegetable Creation. — Amongst all the Inhabitants, Pride, Laziness, Avarice, & Jealousey are the most predominant passions. — the lower orders are addicted to theft & often for trifling things commit Murder. —

At present all the Sea ports where Lord Cochrane, could bring his Guns to bear, have submitted to the Patriot cause, and when his avarice is satisfied, away

he goes, and leaves them to work out their own salvation; with fear & trembling. My Lord C made these poor devils a visit uninvited & unexpected; about 6 Miles above the town, along the Coast he landed a handful of Men with direction to guard the roads leading in the interior, while he made his appearance before the Town with a Frigate & demanded its surrender to the Patriot cause. — Supposing their retreat sure & should he make an attempt to Land, they could carry their duds with them, they refused. he then opened his ports, fired a few Guns, but finding none returned, landed, & marched into the Town. In the mean time the Citizens had mustered all their valuables (the greatest part belonging to the Church) & made a move for the Country; but what was their surprise to behold a band of men in their front and rear — without any opposition they surrendered & became Patriots. — Not finding much booty & to strike terror in them, Lord C had the town fire'd, which consumed most all the buildings, with their contents. — As they have to procure most all their furniture, from the Whalemen, it will be some time before they regain their former splendor. — — —

Having procured a supply of Potatoes, weighed Anchor & went to Tumber 7° S. 81° W. here for the first time in 5 Months, our eyes were greeted with the pleasing sight of Vegetation — this is a point of land extending into the Sea 5 or 6 Miles, about 2 wide — in the center is a small fresh Water river extending 9 or 10 Miles, at the head of which stands the town of Tumber. The soil on the banks of the river is fertile, equal to that of Louisania, on the Mississippi though with difficulty, we obtained, a few vegetables. — —

O that ere long the industrious Yankies may become Masters of this fertile Region; then the Sea-Worn Mariner may let go his Anchor, with the hopes of Nourishment, & being made welcome to the fruits of the Land. — And such a day in my opinion, is not far distant, for with their indolence, church-tithes & Wars they are going to destruction on Eagles wings; — added to which the continual depredations that are committed, may be attributed their neglect of business.

I was on Shore but one day & had no great desire to go the second, for the only thing worthy of Attention is their fruit — this they raise in abundance & as it requires but little labour, it is their chief sustenance.

The town is irregularly laid out, buildings, same as at Payta, though a wide difference in the Splendor of their furniture — I dined at the Mansion of the Commandant's Son, in company with five or six of my shipmates, on a table 4 by 6, without cloth — at my plate (or piece of one) was short a knife & spoon — fortunately my Jack-Knife was in my pocket, which answered every purpose — others where destitute of forks & even plates — however as the good people took the pains to carve before it was cooked, & it being pretty dry — these implements where unnecessary — for the sake of dispatch our dinner consisted of but one dish, consisting of Goat, Potatoes, Cabbages, Carrots & beans all boiled together, after the above was removed a few Songs followed, & to change the scene our beverage consisted of Cold Water — the only disadvantage I had to labour under, was, to make quick motions with my hands, in transporting the food to my mouth, or else the dogs who where hungry, (to starvation) would save me the trouble.

Had I any desire to have tarried with them the Night, it would soon have been satis-

=fied by casting my eyes on the place, where every bone was to bear an equal strain. — which consisted of four Crutches at right Angles drove in the ground, with parallel poles across — on which where laid soft oak boards, & for fear of hiding the ornament & Workmanship of the bed Stead, was spread a Narrow Mat. — others more opulent sleep in grass hammocks. — These I suppose are for the Convenience of decamping, as they know not what hour the Royalists may come, & make them leave their All. — —

Though Nature hath bountifully bestowed her treasures & given every thing, for the convenience & comfort of Man, (in most parts of this extensive region); Notwithstanding they are as a Nation the most degraded, of any extant. — — The Spaniards like the Irish, have not that love of Country at heart, Nor that union which is so Necessary, in obtaining the freedom & independance they Aim at. Nor in my opinion that day will never be declared, although they have made rapid strides towards its Accomplishment — still that inbred Despotism & avarice will be the Means (though Liberty is within their grasp) of holding them in bondage. — — — —

After procureing, some fruit & Vegetables with our Water, Weighed & proceded to Albemarl Island, after Cruizing at this place for two days in Company with Several Ships, & finding no Whales Stood for the Gallapagos Islands. — these consisted of a Cluster 14 or 15 in Number being in Lat 21 Miles S. 91° W. We visited Woods, & was so well entertained by the inhabitants we tarried with them free of all expense, seven days. — — On our first landing, as none of the inhabitants made their

appearance, we travelled in the Country for three or four Miles when I discovered one of them, regaling himself under a tree. At first his size & uncouth figure startled me, supposing from the shortness of his legs, that where he disposed to attack, it could not be effected easily, I boldly advance, & without much difficulty seized him by the legs & secured him. — As Natives of other Countrys, cause considerable speculation as to their origin &c, I think there is a larger field offered here, as they do not appear to resemble any of those who we read of that where scattered over the face of the earth, — from the Tower of Babel — — on the contrary they go on all fours, which are short, with claws, like a Bears — their body is covered with a shell, from 6 to 12 feet in Circumference. the neck & head is 2 & 3 feet long, which to give them a stately & formidable appearance they carry erect. their speed is from 1 to 4 feet an hour, & they seldom exceed this rate unless they are pushed by hunger. though their appearance startly, yet they are harmless as doves. their flesh when cooked is the most delicous of any I ever eat. and their quality of surviving without any sustenance for 9 months, & still retaining their fatness & flavour makes them of great benefit to those ships who are on long voyages. — We obtained 300 of them from 20 to 150 ea & thousands have got the same quantity, yet they are quite plenty — they are a spiecies of the Land Turtle called Tarrapins. The labour of bringing them 4 & 5 Miles over hedges of rocks, & nothing to shelter you from the rays of the Sun, added to which no Water to quench your thirst, makes it difficult for a man to obtain More than 1 or 2 p.c.

From this place, we cruised, in S.S.W. 3° S. as far as 150° W. for the space of 4 Months & obtained in the mean time 1000 barrels of Sperm Oil. — — The weather in this Ocean at all times of the year is mild & serene, which makes the Voyages in this Ocean (though long) quite agreeable — in consequence of which it obtained & that justly the Name of Pacific.

Our supplyes of Vegetables & water becoming short, commenced edging to the N.W. for the Sandwich Isl^ds. on the route, made Christmas & Fannings Islands. in 3° 45' N. 157° 54' W. they are of no great consequence, producing only cocoanuts. & affording Wood & Water — On Fannings, we found the Ship Lyon of Nantucket, (her first Voyage) Commanded by Albert Clark. a complete Wreck — In attempting to go in the harbour, the Wind died away & the Current carried her on the rocks — every exertion was made to get her off, but was of No effect — they had sufficient time to save most all her provisions & tackle — the Cargo which consisted of 1200 Bbls Oil. was lost except 200, which they saved & gave to us for transporting them & duds to Woahoo.

On the 3^d of July Made the largest of the Sandwich Isl^ds — Owhyhee — in Lat 22° N. 157° W Long. on the 4th Mowee & on the 5th Woahoo — a favourable wind offering & the Pilot coming on board, We ran in & came to Anchor in the Outter harbour — As we had been deprived of the good things of this world for some time, & considerable hard labour its companion, we anticipated some relaxation from duty & considerable priveledges — — Our sails where soon furl'd the decks cleaned, & every preperation made for the reception of

visitors — in a few minutes our decks where filled with females (or Whyheenas) — Not like females of other Nations, did they require any assistance of Men, (Nor the usual conveyance on water) to bring them on board — Without any ceremony or fear they plunged in & poirpoise like came breaching towards us — Nor did their Modesty forbid their appearing in Natives garb, — excepting a Tapper or Cloth covering those parts, which is the ***** ** ********* . . —

A smile or nod by the Men was sufficient to win their affections & obtain them for the time being as a Wife, in one instance that I saw myself, a finger was pointed at one, to observe her form, when it was considered by her as binding & irrevocable as one of ours would to the words — I promise to take ye — — At so smale expense & little trouble, it will not be astonishing that every Man took to himself a Wife. —

The soil at this Island, is fertile (laying chiefly in large Valleys) producing — Corn, Sweet potatoes, pumpkins, &c &c with all kinds of Tropical fruits — also the Sandal wood, held in such high estimation by the Chinese — — —

The inhabitants are of a Copper colour — their features (the females especially) are Regular & handsome — their figure a little inclined to corpulency, owing I presume to their indolent manner of living — The men do all the Work in & out doors — of course the Whyheenas have nothing to do than to eat, smoke & sleep, in which they indulge to excess. As to their constancy & modesty Nothing can be said in their

favour, for after you have given a proof of your affection & esteem, by presenting them with a check Shirt or an old handerchief, they will without any provocation, dope from from your bed & board & fly to the arms of another lover — In our own Country this would be an irreparable breach in the poor Mans heart — but here you have only to signify your wish to be wedded, (to one of the Ladies on board) and ere the setting of the Sun, your wants are all supplied —

I have known instances of one Man being Wedded & divorced seven times in a week, & before the eighth could be accomplished, the Anchor was Aweigh & the Ship departing for other climes, leaving the broken hearted Maid, Weeping at the deception of her Lover — —

One of our Men who was more particular than the others, in chusing a bride, as to beauty & Modesty; remained a Batchelor for three or four days — When having been introduced to one, whom he thought would partake of his Joys & his Sorrows — Married her — — he being a kind & indulgent husband granted her every wish — he presented her with a check Shirt, hdkf & one dollar in Cash, with the promise if she remained true & Loyal — She should have her wish — where it half his fortune — — On the Morning the above covenant was Made, She desired leave to visit her parents, which he cheerfully granted — the Weather being Stormy, she asked the loan of his blanket, to shelter her from its rude blast — this small boon could not be denied — with all attention & tenderness, he escorted her over the side of the ship, to the boat — She kiss'd him — with a promise of a speedy return took her leave — At the time appointed, the anxious &

longing husband watched every boat that put off from shore; but, Alas — in this situation darkness overtook him, & no wife nor blanket, arriving — he retired to his birth dejected & alone. days — May — weeks elapsed & no tidings of his love — a thousand fears beset him — for her safety — As to her proving inconstant the thought he banished — that sickness or death was the only cause of seperation, was his firm belief — The first opportunity that offered he went in pursuit — and after considerable difficulty, found her on board another Ship in the Arms of a Negro. — — — —

The Men or Kanakas, dress the same as the females — they are a friendly race of people though avaricous & addicted to petty thefts — The harbour which is good entices all the Whale Ships to resort here to recruit & repair — The Town is situated in front of it, on a level piece of ground, three Mile in extent, near the entrance of a large & fertile Valley — the buildings, or huts, 200 in Number, are built of Sticks, stuck angling in the ground & thatched with grass — one story — No Windows Nor flooring (save the earth) & one small door — The King Reo Reo resides at this Island, he has absolute power over all, to create or destroy — but owing to his intemperance, & pusillanimity, the helm of State is Gov'd by Wm Pitt, a Chief of considerable Sagacity

The only Commerce that is carried on here, is from Island to Island distance 60 miles — in days of Yore, this was done, in large Canoes — but now the King has two or three Brigs & the Chief each a Schooner — these they have purchased of Americans, with Sandal Wood.

The only distinction of the Royal Palace from other buildings is its height & length — I had a great curiosity to view the inside, Not being acquainted with any of the family was fearful that it would never be satisfied — One day while I was on shore on duty, dressed A la Mode fisherman wn Tarpaulin Hat, Bare shirt, & oily Trowsers, without any invitation, marched into the Royal apartments. — His Majesty not being at home gave me a fine opportunity to view the decorations even to the Bed Chamber — which contained — a stained Bed Stead, in the canopy Order — ornamented with blue chintz furniture — not festooned. — it being closed I did not wish to be particular, so guess'd at the inside — say a Mattrass, covered with Mats. —

In the setting or drawing room on one side is suspended, some old mutilated Pictures, representing our Naval victorys, Cupid, Hope, Charity and some obscene characatures, with a full length Portrait of the King, by a Chinese Artist, Miserably executed. — On the other side was suspended a large pleasure boat to protect it from the Weather; underneath of which, was allotted for the repose of his Suite. — For the flooring large Mats, was laid without any order or regularity, by their ends sticking up I was twice laid prostrate on the floor — In this inspection, was escorted by the Prince himself, in his Shirt tail. — —

At this place, Hogs, Vegeatably & all kinds of fruit can be obtained at reasonable prices for Cash — formerly Ships could procure their supplies, for old Iron hoop and to this day; they are current, at Owyhee & the other Islands. the most of our spending money, while ashore, consisted of

the old standard; files and Jack knives. — As they are getting more refined at Woahoo — Old hoop is uncurrent & files. knives & beads are a little below Par. —

On the Sabbath after our Arrival went on shore & found that there was three Missionarys with their families, stationed at this Isl^d — they had been here three or four years, had made considerable progress in the education of the Natives — built a comfortable Church frame dwelling house for themselves & had gained the friendship & esteem of the inhabitants — In the Morning I attended divine Worship, in the Native tongue — the King with his Wives & Chiefs, attended — with a large Congregation of the principal Natives — there appeared to be considerable Attention paid to the discourse & decorum was observed throughout — when the Psalm was set, all joined — & some apparently with devotion, though little Melody. — —

At 11 O-clock the English service commenced, Mr Bingham the principal of the Establishment — a Man of Piety & Zeal & considerable literary Acquirements, delivered the discourse to upwards of 100 who understood the english language.

After church in my perambulation through the Town, observed the Natives both Male & females all employed, either in reading or writing, in which employ they take great delight. — No other recommendation is Necessary to gain their friendship than to inform them you are acquainted with either. — Mrs Bingham the Wife of the Rev^d, stands in high estimation among them she has been sedulously employed in teaching & improving the Manners of the females. — — — — —

It is a proof that whatever station or situation, a sensible and amiable Woman is in, she can make herself useful — Mrs B is a convincing proof of this, for she is as well calculated for Spiritual as temporal instruction & is a great acquisition to the Missionary Corps. — — —

I did not ascertain that there where many true converts to the faith, — from the little observation & intercourse I had — am sensible they have done much good in reforming & instructing them — In dress, manners and Customs they endeavour to imitate Europeans, — especially the Chiefs, who dress with as much Neatness, as any Nation known — — The Chiefs Sons (who I suppose have had a true copy) cut dandy the Original itself. — — — —

March 22d 1823. After procuring an excellent supply of Goats, Hogs, Vegetables & Water weighed Anchor & proceeded to Sea, leaving in Port 40 or 50 Sail of Whaleman. — — Shaped our Course to the Westward — Ran down in 19° N. 179° W Longitude — then hauled on a Wind to the Northward. In 25° Saw the first Whale, — found them from this to 37° N. & as far as 160° E as fast as we could take care of them To give the labour of trying out a Test, We had fogs & squalls of Rain continually. — — In four Months, we filled her, Amounting to twenty two hundred Bbls of Sperm Oil worth One dollar pr gallon. — —

July 4th This being the Anniversary of our Independence, at the close of the day, We met in the forecastle to Celebrate it, as far as was in our power — in the course of the Evening

one of the Tars Mounted on a Chest delivered the following Oration to an attentive audience. — — — — — — —

Shipmates,

Though we are far distant from the land that witness'd our birth — that land of sweet delight. that land of Liberty. — America — yet still we are not forgetful of the joys & rejoicings, that this memorable — this ever to be cherished day, produces in the hearts of all true hearted Yankies — — We have been these two Years tugging on the briny deep — Worn out with fatigue & reduced by the usual nourishment that Seamen have to take up with; yet we are not forgetful of this blessed day the 4th of July.

We have met in a social Manner to express our feelings that this day produces on our hearts — Short of the Means, we have been accustomed to celebrate it with; Still I can perceive a smile of Joy on all your countenances, that convinces me, it does not require those superfluities & provelidges (that Many have) to make it a day of Rejoicing. — Our Situation though confined & disagreable, might be made more comfortable, on such a day as this & our means more enlarged where our Officers as Patriotic, as they are Avaricous. — — But Shipmates — cheer up — our situation is not half so bad as thousands of our countrymen & fellow Mariners have had — yet they celebrated it with the greatest glee. — I allude to those Americans, that where Prisoners in the late War with England. — though on board of the enemy ships & in their dungeons, they did publicly before them on their decks, express their joy, by every demonstration in their power — It makes my heart dilate with joy when

only at the thoughts of that enemy suffering the Yankee Stars & Stripes to be unfurled on board their Ships & allowed them all privileges, that Prisoners could expect — with double allowance of Grog. — And this, by those whom they where then at War with & Whom our Fathers had conquered — they where our enemys — but on this day, their generosity, canceled in a measure, their former Cruelty's. — Though we are on board of an American ship, & commanded by American Officers, We cannot expect, from their general conduct towards Us, as much as those Prisoners of War. — Let them act or do as they please, they cant deprive us, of Contemplating of the benefits of that all cheering, & inestimable blessing Liberty. — Shall we say — who have had it given to us without any struggle or dangers, that the day that gave us freedom & Independance, shall be forgot — heaven forbid — Or shall we say, we have no means to commemorate it with — God forbid — for We have abundance of means without the Aid of any — We can call to our recollection, our fathers first attempt, to accomplish their emancipation from Royalty & despotism — their Struggle with the gripeing hand of poverty & the want of discipline & foes at home, as well as abroad — if this is not sufficient to raise a flame of patriotism in our cold bosoms, let us invoke the Shade of the Immortal Washington to descend among us, & kindle those dead embers within our breasts — With this price our independance, so dearly

bought, let us cherish it as the Apple of our eye & when we see those who attempt to rob us of it, let every arm be nerved to Annihilate him in an instant. And should our country call upon us to defend her rights, May we all say So I come, and that Quickly. — As a Nation, we enjoy the greatest blessings of any in existance. At peace with all. — Respected by all. — Rich in all the abundance of the earth. — Our fields white with the harvest. — Our treasurs, groaning with the weight of their burthen. — Our Banners unfurled & floating in every direction. — Our Ships protected from the insolent foe or the Audacious Pirate. — Our civil & religous priveledges, protected by Government And our females the handsomest & chaste of all Nations of the earth. — And as long as we protect them in their present Situation, they will stand with wide extended arms to receive us & will for ever chant

None but the Brave
None but the Brave
Deserve the fair.

After these innumerable blessings & those that are daily conferred upon us, Our escapes from dangers seen & unseen — our preservation in health — our Success in all our undertakings. — With the promise, if we live soberly, honestly & godly here — We shall live happy hereafter — Does not all these blessings, Cry aloud to us — Serve thy God. — —

Once more we shaped our course for Woahoo — the winds being contrary, from our wish, & as we where anxious to tread on Terra firma again, having been 150 days deprived of this luxury, made our passage long & tedious — And to make our Misery more complete, on Arrival, we did not go into the harbour, added to which, there was a Tabooo or Embargo, laid on all supplies being made to ships by the Natives, of course we were deprived of fresh Provisions & Vegetables, the time we laid here — The cause was this — The King was absent to the other Isles, in this case, it is the prerogative of the Pro-Tem King (or Chief) to levy taxes & monopolizes all the trade — the Natives are compelled to bring him all their produce that is saleable, & under the penalty of severe chastisement if they sell one cents worth for their own use: The King often goes on one of these excursions, merely to gratify the Avarice of his favourite . . . What was my surprise, when having one days liberty from 10 to 4. the Capt. came on board & ordered the Anchor to be weighed — such was my chagrin & disappointment, that had there been any chance of earning a livelihood, I should have sacrificed my Voyage & turned — With considerable dejection I lent a hand to get under Weigh — Never did I leave land with so much regret as at this time, — And never had I more cause to rejoice — for, from a land of heathens, we where going to our favorite country & Countrymen — to our Affectionate & anxious Parents & lastly it would be our liberation from a Whale Ship . . . —

Nothing occured, worthy of note untill 5th Sept. while all hands where busily employed, seated on the Quarter deck, sewing on Sails, the cry of land, by one of the Men who had occasion to go forward, was so unexpected & it being so near, threw us into considerable Confusion — without any regard to the situation of the ship — the helm was put a Lee & brought on the other tack — As soon as Reason had resumed her seat, we found that there was no danger, being then three or four Miles off — though at the first view, it had the appearance of being close on board — It proved to be an undiscovered Island, 8 or 10 feet in height — 2 Miles wide — & 10 long with a very white beach — laying in the form of an Angle running N. & S. in the Lat. of 5° 32 S. 155° 55' W. Long. — Made an attempt to land on the W. side near the N. end, but at this place it was inaccesible on account of Rocks — as it is indented with bays make no doubt that there is many places where boats could land — We Made but one attempt merely through curiosity, as it has no other temptation — being a dreary Waste — the abode of Nothing but the Sea Fowl. As to its Value it is nothing — its Situation if soon made known, will benefit & perhaps save the lives of thousands. Am confident it will never cause contention between any Nation — Without the Emperor Alexander extends his Claim of Latitude from the NW. to include this as a Park

On the 6th Oct. made the Island of Manuie one of the Society's in Lat 17° 44 S. 151° W. Long. distant from Otaite 70 Miles — on our near approach, a Canoe came off, with a letter from the Resident Missionary Mr Bicoff — requesting

a passage to the Isl.d of Bolubola if not out of our course — the Capt. went on shore & staid 5 or 6 hours — finding abundance of wood he intimated his wants to the Natives, with a promise of payment on delivery — with dispatch the wood was cut & brought to the place of delivery — As they had been cheated by a Vessel that had touch'd here before for supplies, they demanded payment before delivery — What was our surprise when for about 5 cord of wood they asked 150 dollars — this exorbitant price, may be imputed, to their ignorance of the value of Money — if the proper measures had been pursued at first, it could have been procured for a trifle for they made but little distinction between a dollar & a gilt button.

After makeing every reasonable offer of Clothes & Money, finding they would not abate one cent — Made all Sail & left them on the Beach, to carry their Wood, Coconuts, hogs &c. from whence they brought them — —

At this place there is a Petty King with about 300 Male & female — they are of a lighter colour than the Owyhenians, handsome featured, Stout hearty looking fellows — & individually very hospitable — The Missionary's are held in high estimation among them — they are quite proficients in Reading & Writeing — they have built a handsome, Airy Church in the Native Style, to which they all resort in time of Worship — The female are very Coy, & will Run from a Stranger if far from their huts — others more forward will indulge you in a few liberty's — Any further — Marriage is Necessary — Prostitution & Bastardy is punished with death. on the Whole they have arrived to considerable perfection.

From the Renegado conduct of some

Masters of Vessels, who are compelled to touch here, May be apprehended some difficultys arising, as they will be the Mean of giving the Natives a poor opinion of the doctrine & Morals that the Missionarys inculcate, & in a degree retard their progress & perhaps if repeated, will be the cause, as has been at other Isl^ds of Sheding innocent blood

On the 8th made the Island of Otahite distant 40 Miles, the Wind being a head, Stood to the Southward.

On the 12th Made the Island Chitaloova seeing no good place to land & it blowing fresh Stood on.

We are now 4000 Miles from Cape Horn, without ~~any~~ Wood sufficent to cook that distant one Meal per day — O Tempora — The greatest beverage to Sailors in cold & Stormy Weather, is warm tea — of course this luxury must be dispensed with & am of opinion ere many days, our diet will consist of Raw beef & pork — God forbid — though What must be — Must —

All hands are now employed in repairing the Ship & stoping the breaches in their cloths, to Stem the chilling blasts of Cape Horn — Trowsers that in more moderate climes, had ben condemned, are brought forth — many who have not the same quality for patches, stop the breach with canvass — Shirts that would have disgraced Falstaffs Soldiers, that have ben kicking under foot & have supplied the place of foot Mats — are Washed & receive the first place in our Chests — Ships sailing from warm to cold climates generally carry Thermometers, to give Notice of the approach of Ice Land & the variation of the Atmosphere — but this article in a Whale Ship can be dispensed with, as the Actions of the Crew give timely Notice of the same —

Nov.r 15th Not yet arrived at the Cape, though in a fair Way of Wind & weather holds, as it is at present, Clear & Warm — Wind N.W. Steering E by N distant 400 Miles — Yesterday being extremely pleasant, lowered the boat, & took an excursion for pleasure & game — in half an hour she returned loaded —

Without any Material change in the Weather we passed the Cape — The Diego Ramirez bearing N by W distant 40 Miles —

Nov.r 25th La.t 53° S. 45° W Long. At the close of this day, without any apparent change in the Atmosphere, We discovered two large Islands of Ice directly ahead — they where about 200 feet in height & ten Miles long — On the following Morning discovered Another, off our Lee bow — At the first appearance We took it for land — untill the Rays of the Sun discovered its heavy Soil. — — — — — Well may we exclaim with the Royal Psalmist — They that go down to the sea in Ships — that do business in great Waters — These see the works of the Lord — & his wonders in the deep. — — —

Nov.r 28th It is now 40 days, that we have been deprived of Warm breakfasts & Suppers & in a fair way of soon loseing the cheering Steam off our duff — Alas, Alas, the day that I came a Whaling — for What profiteth a Man if he gain the whole World & in the mean time starve to death.

Happy famine might the Prodigal have said — when it was so sore that he was glad to eat husks — that it opened his eyes to see his former happy estate & caused him to return to his Father & acknowledge his disobedience & prodigality.

Happy sufferings May I say if they compel me to follow the exam of the Prodigal son . . .

Decr 5th Yesterday spoke the Ship Constitution of Norfolk, who generously supplied us with some Wood. Also furnished us with New York papers, from which I learnt the death of my Brother (in Law) Marcellus M Van Gieson — As a Father his family has met with an irreparable loss — As a Friend I have lost my only & best one (my mother excepted) that this earth affords — As a Citizen — he was well known for his honesty, integrity Sobriety & humanity. — He was a Man — take him for all in all I shall nev'e see his like again.

Nantucket March 1st

This day by Letters from New York, was informed of the death of my two Sisters Catharine Van Gieson & Hannah Booram — O my God — May this dispensation of thine, be the Means of makeing Me prepare to meet thee, When thou doth Send thy Summons forth —

Miss Sarah Snow — Nantucket Mar 4th 1834

Dear Girl

As you requested me, I lend you this Journal & as it is probable the Wind will be fair for N York before you perase it, it is my wish you would immediately destroy it, as it was not wrote for the inspection or Amusement of ~~or~~ any one but myself — there are Many errors — but Consider it was Wrote by a Poor Sailor

With Sentiments of Respect & Esteem. Remain Yours
Moses E Mornell

Navigation.

Altitudes & Latitude

It is customary, to add 12 to altitudes, for Semidiameter, Dip, Refraction & Parallax — The Refraction should not be omitted in low Altitudes, found in Table XII. Subtracted. If Zenith Dis.t & Decl.n be both N or S Add; contrary Subtract.

Example

Sea Account, June 21st 1818 Long 60° W. Sun's 40° - 06' Observed Altitude Bore S.

		12
		40 - 18
Refraction		1
		40 - 17
Subtract		90 - 00
Zenith Distance		49 - 43 N
Table IV & V Declination		23 - 28 N
Latitude		73 - 11 N.

Time & Chronometer

To obtain the Polar Distance — if the La.t & Declination be both N or both S. Subtract the Declination from 90 — Or if one be N & the oth S add. If the Sine of ½ Sum of Lograms be at top or bottom, so is time AM or PM.

Example

Sea Alt. Oct. 10th 1808, La.t 51.30 N. Long 62° E Sun's Altitude 13° 32'. Declination 0° 34 S. Refraction 4' — Required the true Time

	Altitude	13. 32		
Dip	Refraction &c	8		
Cor. Altitude		13 - 40		
	Latitude	51 - 30	Secant	0. 20585
	Pol. Dis.t	98 - 34	Co Secant	0 · 00255
	Sum	161 - 44	½ Sum Co Sine	9 - 20867
			Rem Sine	9 - 95467
	½ Sum	80 - 52		19 - 37405
	Alt.	13 - 40	Sine	9 - 68702 to which, Table XXVII is in
	Rem	67 - 12	time column AM. 8 hours 7 M. — 9 Second	

In taking Altitudes for Chronometer, it is Necessary to take the Mean of two or three, and this when the Sun is about 20°; as at this Altitude her speed is small — The Semidiameter, Dip, Parallax & Refraction, must be allowed as pr. tables R . S . D . P to obtain it correctly — If you have a good time piece, that can be depended upon, Altitudes will be unnecessary — Rule, To the